

Tathbīt al-Imāmat Amīr al-Muminīn 'Ali bin Abi Ṭālib



The Establishment of the Imamate Of Amīr
al-Muminīn 'Ali bin Abi Ṭālib

Imam al-Hadi Yahya bin al-Hussein

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By
Imam al-Hādī ila al-Haqq Yahya bin al-Hussein

Translation of *Tathbīt al-Imāmat Amīr al-Muminīn ‘Ali bin Abi Ṭālib*:

In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Gracious...

The establishment of the imamate of *Amīr al-Muminīn*, ‘Ali bin Abi Ṭālib, may Allah be merciful to him, is from the Book of Allah, the Mighty and Majestic, as well as from the statements of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him and his progeny.

If a questioner asks or a stubborn person ignorantly quarrels about the imamate of *Amīr al-Muminīn*, ‘Ali bin Abi Ṭālib, may Allah be pleased with him, say to him: “O questioner, it is established in by the Word of Allah, glorified be He, and that of His chosen Messenger, Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him and his progeny.”

If he says: “Can we find it in the Book what Allah said and establish for us how the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him and his progeny, said so?”, then say to him:

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him and his progeny, said: ((‘Ali is to me as Aaron was to Moses, except that there will be no prophet after me)). Then, he said: ((O people, I shall be lied upon just as the Prophets before me were lied upon. That which you hear on my authority, place it against the Book of Allah. That which agrees with the Book of Allah is from me, and I said it. That which disagrees with the Book of Allah is not from me, and I didn’t say it)).

When he, peace and blessings be upon him and his progeny, said: ((‘Ali is to me as Aaron was to Moses, except that there will be no prophet after me)), we know that he didn’t do so out of just affection, personal choice, or happiness! Rather, he did so out of the obligatory command from Allah and the manifest, clear truth.

When he, peace and blessings be upon him and his progeny, said: ((‘Ali is to me as Aaron was to Moses)), we find that he confirmed that which is firmly established in the Book. Allah, the Mighty and Majestic, said: **{Is he [to be counted equal with them] who relies on a clear proof from his Lord; and a witness from him teaches it, and before it was the Book of Moses, an example and a mercy?} (Q. 11:17).** When Allah said: **{and a witness from him teaches it}**, Allah’s statement is confirmed by that of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him and his progeny: ((‘Ali is to me as Aaron was to Moses)).

He says: **{and a witness from him teaches it}**. When the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him and his progeny, said: ((‘Ali is to me (*minī*) [or “‘Ali is from me”]...)), Allah says: **{and a witness from him (*min hu*)}**. Verily, by the statement of Allah and that of His Messenger, the Messenger of Allah was from ‘Ali and ‘Ali is from him--whether we hate it or love it, desire it or deny it!

We cannot judge that it was a statement out of love nor can we attribute such to inclination out of hatred and stubbornness. We do not find in that the confirmation of love. Also, we cannot judge it by the lies of the haters. His is because Allah, glorified be He, judges it as He judges it and chooses it as He chooses it. Allah says in His Book concerning the position of His prophets: **{And your Lord creates what He wills and He alone chooses. They didn’t have a choice}**. Then, He says: **{He is glorified and exalted above their ascribing partners to Him!} (Q. 28:68).**

We see that Allah chose ‘Ali after Muhammad by His statement: **{and a witness from him}** and the Messenger’s statement: ((‘Ali is to me [or “‘Ali is from me”]...)). This is because of Allah’s Knowledge concerning ‘Ali.

Consequently, ‘Ali precedes (*sabaqa*) all of creation to Allah and to His Messenger. There is no doubt about that to one with intellect! One cannot deny that except the ignorant! This is because Allah, glorified be He, says: **{The forerunners [in faith] (*as-sābiqūn*) are the forerunners. They are the ones brought close [to Allah] in Gardens of Paradise} (Q. 56:10-12).** Allah, the Blessed and Exalted, bears witness that they are the forerunners to Paradise.

Everyone testifies that ‘Ali bin Abi Ṭālib, may Allah be merciful to him, was the foremost in preceding all of creation to Allah and to His Messenger. Therefore, we testify on behalf of ‘Ali bin Abi Ṭālib with the testimony for him by Allah and His Messenger.

It is not by our choice but by what we heard. {Whoever wills, let him believe; and whoever wills, let him disbelieve. We will establish for the unjust a Fire around them and they call for relief. They will be relieved with water like dark oil, which burns their faces. Wretched is the drink} (Q. 18:29).

Allah, glorified be He, has spoken the Truth and has sent His Messengers. The witnesses have all borne witness to that! All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, the First and the Last! May Allah bless and grant peace to Muhammad, the Chosen, and his progeny, the sources of salvation!